

ANNUAL REPORT  
ON  
**THE HEALTH**  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SANDWICH  
FOR THE YEAR  
**1925.**



**JOHN W. HARRISSON, M.B.**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

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**T. F. PAIN & SONS, SANDWICH & DEAL.**



# PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY, SANDWICH.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER, 1925.

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GENTLEMEN,—

According to instruction from Ministry of Health, I now hand you the Report for the year 1925. During the 12 months 187 vessels arrived, 142 of these being Coastwise and 45 Foreign. Of the Coastwise vessels 24 were Steam, 89 Sailing, and 29 Motor. The figures are misleading. The Coastwise vessels are really six regular traders plying between Sandwich and London, making 142 arrivals during the year in this Port. Their cargoes were Thames Ballast, Coal, Corn, Timber, Cement, Sugar and Petroleum. The vessels from Foreign Ports were from Ostend, Calais, Nordmaling (Sweden), cargoes chiefly Stone, but some Bricks and Timber, 38 Steam, 6 Sailing, 1 Motor. The total number of entries is considerably less than last year, when the number was 312. The Sanitary Inspector has made the required inspections of vessels arriving in Sandwich, and found the conditions satisfactory. No case of infectious disease or any illness reported, and no complaints as to rats made. If any case of illness existed it would be reported by the Excise Officer on entry to the Sanitary Inspector, and, if necessary, by him to the Port M.O. If any cleansing or disinfection of verminous persons was necessary, it would be carried out by the Urban Officials as done in the Urban District by arrangement with the Rural District Authority.

The 31st December, 1925, was the last day of the Port Sanitary Authority as at present constituted. On 1st Jan., 1926, it underwent re-organisation to meet the expected developments of the immediate future.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. HARRISSON,

P.M.O.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
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SANDWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

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SANDWICH,  
25th MARCH, 1926.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Sandwich for the year ending 31st December, 1925; giving also the Vital Statistics and Comments on matters relating to Sanitary Administration.

The population of the Borough in the 1921 census was 3,161. The Registrar-General last year estimated the number 3,169. For statistical purposes in this Report I take the number of 3,200, representing a fair average basis for 1925.

There are no injurious trades carried on in the town. The chief occupations are those of the ordinary agricultural town.

The number of houses inhabited at the end of the year is given as 800, with few exceptions occupied by one family. The rateable value is £18,107, a penny rate producing £67.

The number of deaths registered within the Borough during the year was 25. The number of deaths allocated to us (residents in the town dying away in public institutions, &c., viz., Infirmary, Asylum, Hospitals, &c.) was 3.

The actual death-rate per 1,000 within the Borough was 7.8.

The death-rate of persons dying outside the Borough, but allocated to us as Residents, was 2.5. The combined death-rate is, therefore, 10.3 per thousand, an exceedingly low rate, the lowest for many years.

The actual death-rate from disease would be even lower, as one death was a case of suicide, which was allocated to Sandwich.



Of the 25 deaths registered within the Borough eleven were over 70 years of age, and three under 12 months, viz., one, a premature child (living 2 hours only) and two, the result of dentition.

The number of births in the year 1925 is given as 59 (which includes one illegitimate). This shows a birth-rate of 18.4 per thousand.

1924.—The total death-rate per 1,000 in 1924 was 13. The total birth-rate per 1,000 in 1924 was 16.8.

1925.—The total death-rate per 1,000 in 1925 was 10.3. The total birth-rate per 1,000 in 1925 was 18.4.

The following notifiable Infectious Diseases were reported during the year: 1 Scarlet Fever, 2 Erysipelas, 1 Enteric, 1 Diphtheria, 11 Tuberculosis, 1 Pneumonia.

I now supplement the above natural and social conditions of this urban area, which (including water) is 756 acres, and proceed with the very detailed Report required by Ministry of Health this year—as far as possible on the lines indicated by them practically a survey of the last 5 years. The amount of Poor Law Relief given in 1925 was one hundred and eighty-four pounds. Hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are generally used in severe or urgent cases, but to no great extent otherwise. No special causes of sickness nor conditions of occupation or environment have been prejudicial to the general health during the past 5 years.

There are no Hospitals within the area, but Canterbury and Deal are available, the former 12 miles distant and the latter 6. Most of the Tubercular cases are treated by the County Tubercular Officer, and, when necessary, sent by him to County or other Hospital, as may be available. Fever cases are sent to Isolation Hospital at Eastry, 2 miles distant (by arrangement with the Rural District). The Small Pox Hospital (24 beds) at Hammill, is 2½ miles distant, a proportionate payment being made by this Urban District for upkeep, &c.

There is no Institutional Provision made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children in this area. *Ambulance facilities, horse conveyance used*

by Rural Authority at present for conveyance of infectious cases to Isolation Hospital, and the Sandwich Motor Ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Voluntary) is open weekly, and the doctor attends twice monthly for consultation and treatment. No Day Nurseries.

The Tubercular Dispensary is at Deal, and Venereal Treatment Centre Dover and Canterbury. The Public Health Officers are part time Officers. A contribution is made towards salary by the Kent County Council. Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector are the only officials. The Health Visitor and Nurses (2) are appointed by the Ladies' Nursing Committee, a Voluntary Institution managed and organised by ladies of this District. Both Nurses are very capable (and are Queen's Nurses). No other public offices are held by them. They do the general nursing and midwifery only. The Town Council give a grant of £40 a year and £12 (rent of Child Welfare Centre). A portion is returned them by Ministry of Health. There are no midwives practising in the area. The local doctors support and now chiefly use the County Laboratory for their chemical work, as is also done annually by the M.O.H. for water analysis, &c. The Public Health Act, 1890, is in force, being adopted June, 1891. Local Act 27 George III., Pavement Act is in force; also Section 50 Public Health Act, 1907, re Motor Ambulance, adopted 24—5—22.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER.**—A constant supply is obtained from the Corporation Waterworks in the Rural District, 2½ miles away, from a bore-hole in the chalk. Though hard, the samples on analysis at the County Laboratory have always been found to be free from contaminations, and suitable for drinking purposes. Some complaints were made during 1924 and 1925 of shortage at places, and the Council took expert advice, and are acting upon it. New mains of larger diameter are being laid, which it is hoped will obviate the difficulty. Nearly all the houses are supplied directly.

The Tidal River Stour eventually receives most of the sewage, as has always been the case, from drains or open waterways. Of course it is objectionable, and no Medical Officer would approve, but at the same time there have been few complaints, and no cases of illness have been traced to it as a cause.

The Town Council are anxious to find a means of improving the drainage system and obviating some of the present disadvantages, and have employed a Sanitary Engineer, who is making a further Report on any possible new system, but I believe he finds very great practical and financial difficulties, which are a serious economic consideration at the present time.

CLOSET ARRANGEMENTS. — 429 w.c., 24 cesspools, privies 4, and 350 pails. The water closet type is encouraged when conversion made.

SCAVENGING.—Removal from earth closets and house refuse is made by Corporation employees. It is taken in covered carts to a dump 1 mile distant from the town, where it is deodorised and destroyed, some being removed as manure. All ashbins (with two exceptions) are movable.

The Sanitary Inspector made 401 various inspections connected with his duties during the year. Of these 182 were concerning nuisances, &c. 26 were dealt with under the Public Health Act, and were remedied upon service of the usual informal notice, or by verbal notification. There were no statutory notices served. Bake-houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Slaughter-houses, Lodging-houses, and Workshops were, with one or two exceptions, found to be in satisfactory condition.

No action has been taken as regards smoke abatement, and but little complaint has been made. There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Borough. The Sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools is good. A great improvement has recently been made in the Lavatory accommodation, &c., in the Secondary School, which had been much needed.

HOUSING.—As regards general housing conditions, there is still a shortage of houses. The Town Council



have extended their very excellent housing scheme to 64. 44 of these are completed (or nearly so). This is relieving an unsatisfactory condition within the Borough, but there is considerable demand for cottages of a lower rental. There has been some increase in population, and it is anticipated in the near future this increase may become considerable, owing to coal developments and its probable allied industries in this neighbourhood. This has led to some slight overcrowding, which is unavoidable under the circumstances.

The general standard of housing in the area is low, judged by the present standard. There are a number of houses let at comparatively low rentals, which are old, and nothing short of rebuilding would bring them to required standard. One house was closed by its owner as being unfit for habitation, and several have been made temporarily more habitable by repairs. There are few back-to-back houses in this area. The number of new houses erected during the year is 18 with State assistance under the Housing Acts.

1.—By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	12
2.—By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	6

#### UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Total inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	36
do. (under Housing Consolidated Act, 1925)	...	...	...	...	...	36
Number unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number found not in all respects to be reasonably fit	...	...	...	...	...	12
Remedy of defects without service of formal notice	...	...	...	...	...	12
No action was necessary or proceedings taken under statutory powers, and no demolition orders made.	...	...	...	...	...	

The Milk supply has been adequate and quality satisfactory (with one exception, which on analysis was deficient in fat). The delinquent was prosecuted and fined. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were inspected and found in good condition. In accordance with the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, the Inspector attended the slaughtering of 3 suspected tubercular cows, which were destroyed and necessary certificates given.



No licenses were granted for sale of milk under special designations and none applied for. No refusal or revocation of registration made.

MEAT.—The Sanitary Inspector was appointed Inspector under Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and has visited and inspected the slaughtering of 202 animals, which took place during the 85 visits he made. One sheep and one pig were condemned, and portions of four other animals condemned and destroyed. No arrangements have been made for marking. The administration of this Act as regards shops, stores and vehicles is in force. There are no public slaughter-houses, but two private (old) registered and in use 1920 and at the present time.

UNSOUND FOOD INSPECTED. — With the exception of the above unsound meat condemned (about 3cwt.) and the sample of milk adulterated mentioned below, no complaint regarding food supply has been made. No cases of food poisoning have occurred in this district. 29 samples were taken and analysis made of Food and Drugs, but, with exception of one sample of milk, already alluded to, all proved to be genuine.

Prevalence of Notifiable Diseases since 1920 is as follows :

Total no. of Notifications.				
1920	9	...	...	4 of these Tubercular
1921	9	...	...	4 do.
1922	11	...	...	5 do.
1923	14	...	...	9 do.
1924	18	...	...	5 do.
1925	18	...	...	11 do.

During the 5 years above given there were 2 cases of Diphtheria and 13 of Scarlet Fever. The more efficient notification and treatment in Tubercular cases is evident in above figures. Prompt use is made of diphtheria anti-toxin by the local doctors. There has been no encephalitis lethargica or "return" case of Scarlet Fever, and Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have not been present.

If pathological or bacteriological specimens require examination, it is usually done at the County Laboratory, both doctors in the town appreciating its efficiency and advantages. It is very rare for an infectious case not to be sent to the Isolation Hospital. When not done, the home is visited, instructions given and isolation carried out as far as possible. On recovery disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The Schiek and Dick tests have not been used. No primary or re-vaccinations are performed by Medical Officer of Health. The mortality from Influenza during this five year period has been 6, never more than 2 in a year; nearly always complicated with Pneumonia. No Anthrax or Rabies has been reported. Cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons is carried out by arrangement with the Rural District at Eastry. Disinfection of premises and occasional destruction of articles by burning is carried out by local Sanitary Authority.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925 (other than tubercular):

						Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1	None
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1	None
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2	—	None

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE work is affiliated to the Sandwich Nursing Association, well and efficiently managed by Sandwich ladies. The Centre is open every Friday, and a doctor attends the first and third Fridays in the month. The Health Visitor (very kindly assisted by a lady) attends every Friday. 973 visits were made by the Health Visitor during the year. The average weekly attendance of mothers is 26 and children 30. When engaged, the nurse midwife keeps the expectant mother under observation until the case passes into hands of Health Visitor, in whose charge infant remains until 5 years of age, when the School Nurse takes control.

There was no maternal mortality, but 2 still-births notified. Three deaths were registered of infants under 12 months, 1 certified premature, 2 dentition. Un-

married mothers and illegitimate children are allowed to attend Mothercraft Club. The few cases are dealt with privately if necessary.

Any necessary orthopædic treatment is referred to County Institution through the County Medical Officer. There has been no case of Puerperal Fever, Poliomyelitis, or other infectious disease; and in particular no ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year.

Particulars of New Cases of Tuberculosis and of Deaths from this disease are asked for the year 1925. They are as follows :

NEW CASES.					DEATHS.			
AGE PERIOD	MALE PULMONARY	FEMALE NON-PULMONARY	MALE PULMONARY	FEMALE NON-PULMONARY	PULMONARY MALE	FEMALE	NON-PULMONARY MALE	FEMALE
5 yrs.				2				1
10 „				2				
20 „	1				1			
35 „	1		1	1	1			
45 „	3				1			1

There are no notified tubercular employees in the milk trade of this District, no notices served under Article 5 of the 1925 Regulations; consequently no appeals and no compensation paid by this Authority.

I beg now to conclude this very exhaustive (required) Report and believe I may fairly congratulate the Authority, from the evidence given by statistics and general results, upon a very satisfactory year as regards the Public Health; notwithstanding the adverse factors inherent and inseparable to an old town, rightly endeavouring to preserve the charm and character of an Ancient Cinque Port. It shows it is also endeavouring to progress and adopt suitable measures likely to promote the Public Hygiene.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. HARRISSON,

M.O.H.













